Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A circuit board module, comprising:

a circuit board that includes a processor and memory; and

an external connector panel that provides user access to connectors that are mounted to the circuit board when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected together so as to form a pre-assembled single, integrated unit that can be installed as single component in ~~a~~ the computer such that the circuit board and the connector panel are not separately installed in the computer, the connector panel comprising inwardly-facing connection ~~elements~~ tabs that are configured for receipt by slots of a computer chassis to directly connect the connector panel to ~~a~~ the computer chassis.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the circuit board further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the circuit board to a computer chassis.

4. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the circuit board is a computer motherboard.

5. (Original) The module of claim 1, wherein the connector panel comprises openings with which the connectors are aligned or extend through.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The module of claim 1, wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the circuit board.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A motherboard module separate from a computer, the module comprising:

a computer motherboard that includes a processor and memory, the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard; and

an external connector panel having openings that are configured to receive the input/output connectors mounted to the motherboard so as to provide access to the connectors to a computer user when the module is installed in a host computer, the connector panel further comprising inwardly-facing connection ~~elements~~ tabs that are configured for receipt by slots of a computer chassis to directly connect the panel to ~~a~~ the computer chassis;

wherein the motherboard and the connector panel are connected together so as to form a pre-assembled single, integrated unit in which the rear edge of the motherboard aligns with the connector panel and the motherboard extends normal from the connector panel and wherein the integrated unit can be installed within the computer as a single component such that the circuit board and the connector panel are not separately installed in the computer.

11. (Original) The module of claim 10, wherein the motherboard further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

12. (Original) The module of claim 10, wherein at least one connector mounted to the motherboard is also attached to the connector panel to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A computer, comprising:

an outer housing;

a chassis mounted within the outer housing, the chassis including connection slots; and

a pre-assembled motherboard module that includes a motherboard that is mounted within the chassis and an external connector panel that is accessible from the exterior of the computer, the motherboard and the connector panel being connected together to form a single, integrated unit adapted for installation within the computer as a single component such that the circuit board and the connector panel are not separately installed in the computer, the motherboard including a processor, memory, and input/output connectors, the connector panel providing user access to the motherboard connectors and comprising inwardly-facing connection ~~elements~~ tabs that are configured for receipt by the chassis slots to directly connect the connector panel to the chassis.

15. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein the connectors are mounted to the motherboard.

16. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein the circuit board further comprises openings that are adapted to receive fasteners that are used to secure the circuit board to the chassis.

17. (Original) The computer of claim 14, wherein at least one connector is attached to the connector panel.

18. (Original) The computer of claim 17, wherein the at least one connector is also mounted to the motherboard so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard.

19-20.

21. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a computer, the method comprising:

pre-assembling an integrated motherboard module comprising a motherboard and an integral external connector panel; and

installing the pre-assembled, integrated motherboard module as a single unit in a computer chassis such that the motherboard and the connector panel are not separately installed in the computer, wherein the installing is performed by ~~installing~~ mounting the pre-assembled, integrated motherboard module ~~into~~ to the computer chassis without sliding the motherboard module into place.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein pre-assembling a motherboard module comprises mounting the connector panel to the motherboard by securing a connector that is mounted to the motherboard to the connector panel.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein installing the motherboard module comprises attaching the connector panel of the motherboard module to the computer chassis using inwardly-facing connection tabs provided on ~~one of~~ the connector panel ~~and~~ that are received by slots provided in the chassis.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein installing the motherboard module further comprises securing the motherboard to the chassis with threaded fasteners.